

I strongly believe that regulations controlling media ownership limits should not be loosened. In fact, the current limits provide too much consolidated ownership already (e.g., Clear Channel, Viacom, etc.). Twelve hundred plus stations in the country forces too much Clear Channel programming on U.S. citizens.

Of perhaps even greater concern to me is the ability of media companies to control up-stream and down-stream dissemination of information and entertainment. It is preposterous to allow a company that controls so much of the country's airwaves (Clear Channel) to also control booking and promotion of live entertainment in so many cities (SFX Productions).

This situation creates a sense of payola in spirit if not in the letter of the law. When an artist is required to perform at a certain venue (creating a revenue stream for the owner company) for airplay on particular radio stations (controlled by the same owner company) it can't be deemed anything but unethical. Further, when radio stations begin charging advertising fees for announcing an artist's name over the air (see the recent Clear Channel policy plans), it is again payola in spirit if not in the letter of the law.

The FCC must take strong action now to correct the damage done by the 1996 Telecommunications Act. Deregulation was not, and still is not, the way to organize something that should belong to everybody.